

array of skills at their disposal, medical assistants are responsible for administrative roles such as scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, recording billing and coding information for insurance purposes, as well as performing clinical duties like taking and recording vital signs, completing medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by a physician.

With their unique versatility, medical assistants are assets to the medical field that serves both doctors and patients with loyalty and dedication. It is a privilege to recognize these honorable men and women who are committed to health care and work diligently to heal fellow citizens and others in our country. I wish all who pursue this worthy vocation the best, and I urge all Americans to be aware of their sizeable contributions to our health care system.

REAUTHORIZING THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND ITS IMPACT ON OHIO'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for federal highway and transit programs across the nation and for Republican leadership to pass the Highway Trust Fund.

Federal highway and transit programs are vitally important to the third congressional district of Ohio, which I proudly represent.

The design, construction, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in the third congressional district supports 15,184 full-time jobs, earning these families a total of \$602.1 million annually.

Between 2005 and 2014, the federal investment in my congressional district has provided \$1.4 billion to support 380 highway and bridge projects worth \$2.1 billion.

Republican Leadership's failure to enact a robust, long-term funding bill for our decaying infrastructure system, is hurting our economy and hardworking American families all across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, a long-term bill helps provide good-paying jobs, safe and modern infrastructure, and efficient transportation.

Let's reauthorize the Highway and Transit Trust Fund today, before the October 29th deadline.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE FRANCIS (FRANK) MINOSKY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major George Francis (Frank) Minosky, U.S. Army, Retired. CSM Minosky answered the call to defend our great nation for over 25 years.

Today he lives in Belton, Texas where he continues to serve his fellow countrymen as a vibrant part of his growing central Texas community.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio CSM Minosky entered the Army in 1970. After a period of rigorous initial entry training, he was assigned to the legendary 82nd Airborne Division. Due to impeccable achievement and promotion to the non-commissioned officer ranks, he was selected for drill sergeant training in 1975. In this capacity, CSM Minosky provided superior leadership and shared his tactical expertise with thousands of recruits at Forts Ord and Sill.

Following his assignment as a drill sergeant, CSM Minosky served in Korea, Fort Bragg, and Hawaii. CSM Minosky's career culminated at Ft Hood, Texas where he retired in 1995 after 25 years of dedicated service. His last official assignment in the United States Army was Command Sergeant Major of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a critical and prestigious assignment. Among a long list of accomplishments, CSM Minosky earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Upon retiring, CSM Minosky's sense of duty did not end with his active military service. Frank Minosky's dedication to country and soldiers manifested in his efforts with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10377, American Military Retiree Association, Enlisted Retiree Association, Fort Hood Commanding Generals Retiree Council, and the Chief of Staff Army's Retirees Council. Frank Minosky is also an active member of the Association for the United States Army and the First Cavalry Division Association.

Frank Minosky firmly embraced central Texas as his new home in 1992; since then, he has become an indispensable local community leader. Belton, TX singled Frank out as its Citizen of the year on one occasion. He has served superbly as a Belton City Councilman and presently contributes on the Belton Planning and Zoning Board. The good people of Central Texas are blessed to have him among us.

I am stirred with the strongest sense of pride and honor as an American to highlight the life of a true servant of the people. CSM Minosky's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of our beloved military servicemen and Central Texas. Let today be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy, prosperous, and healthy life in the years ahead.

HONOR THE WORKERS AT THE MAPLE RIDGE WIND FARM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the workers at the Maple Ridge Wind Farm in my district. Many of their employees recently visited Washington, calling on Con-

gress to pass policy that drives more clean energy solutions. Not only does the Maple Ridge Wind Farm supply the electricity needs for 96,000 homes in upstate New York, but since it became a part of the community in 2006, it has also provided \$8 million a year in tax revenues to Lewis County. What has this meant for the community? Well, at Lowville Academy and Central School, they have been able to add 11 positions to the payroll, add 10 advanced placement classes and keep other important programs such as art and music, all thanks to the added tax revenue from the wind project. This has been a remarkable advantage for this school district and the surrounding community. I want to thank the 35 employees—all of whom are local to upstate New York—who keep the Maple Ridge Wind Farm operating. I urge my colleagues to support clean energy incentives, like the Production Tax Credit, which has not only helped the U.S. become the leader in wind energy, but at a local level, drives private investments that can have such a positive impact on our rural communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT WRIGHT, RECIPIENT OF THE LACKAWANNA PRO BONO'S ROBERT W. MUNLEY AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Wright, recipient of the 2015 Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Credited with transforming the training given to doctors in northeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Wright is the former president and CEO of the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education. Originally established by Dr. Wright in 1977 as the Scranton Temple Residency Program, it was renamed in 2010 to honor Dr. Wright. Since its founding, The Wright Center's mission is to continuously improve education and patient care in a collaborative spirit in order to enhance health care outcomes, access, and affordability. The program includes all three Scranton hospitals and clinics in Scranton, Archbald, and Clarks Summit. Dr. Wright also played an integral role in establishing The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton and generated significant community support for the endeavor.

Dr. Wright is a graduate of the Temple School of Medicine. He completed his residency training in Internal Medicine at Temple and fellowship training in Hematology and Oncology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a Professor of Medicine at Temple University and also holds a volunteer faculty appointment at The Commonwealth Medical College. Dr. Wright was the Founding Chair of The Commonwealth Medical College Board and currently chairs its Academic Affairs and Compliance Committees.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Robert Wright for the pioneering work he has done for the medical community, and I extend my congratulations to him on being awarded the

Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend Dr. Robert Wright for all the effort he has put forth to make northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO THE POULOS FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dan, Kathy, and Pete Poulos, of the Pizza King Restaurant in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For 50 years, Pizza King has been a landmark in the business community. It was founded in 1965, and has been a family-owned operation since its inception.

Pizza King has hosted events of all kinds, from wedding rehearsal dinners, to children's parties, to anniversary celebrations. Pizza King has been the restaurant of choice for a quiet dinner for two, a business meeting, or a gathering of over 100. The Poulos Family works together to provide outstanding customer service each and every day. The Pizza King Restaurant is a Council Bluffs institution and has provided delicious food, paired with a warm and inviting atmosphere, for generations of diners.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dan, Kathy, Pete and the entire Poulos family for 50 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Pizza King and its owners for this outstanding achievement. I wish the Poulos family and staff nothing but the best moving forward.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JIM TORRES, U.S. AIR FORCE, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Jim Torres, U.S. Air Force, Retired for his 23 years of dedication, loyalty, and honorable service to our great nation and his continued outstanding community involvement. His has been a life lived in devoted service to others.

MSgt Torres served 3 tours in Vietnam, all as a volunteer. For his selfless service to our country, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for heroic combat action among other awards.

Upon retirement, MSgt Torres continues to serve his fellow veterans in Round Rock, Texas in countless ways. He serves in an involved role in El Amistad, an organization dedicated to helping high school seniors go to college or trade school. MSgt Torres has long been a volunteer at the VA hospital in Kerrville where he takes on an active role reaching out to patients. Known locally as a "one man veteran's help line" he engages in conversations with veterans to hear their story and help with any problem they might be having. MSgt

Torres' service doesn't simply stop at conversations with his fellow veterans; he also volunteers at the local Round Rock Veteran's thrift store where proceeds go to help Central Texas veterans. He is beloved by the community for these selfless actions.

MSgt Torres is a quiet hero who takes on community tasks for his fellow man to seek and ensure that local veterans receive the recognition they deserve. I commend him for his selfless service to the United States Air Force and especially to his community. He has been a shining example and direct reflection of the very best values of our nation by his acts of patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

SITE COMMISSIONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a letter that I and my colleagues sent to the FCC asking for an end to site commissions.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the FCC will finally take action to reform prison telephone rates also known as Inmate Calling Services. This action is long overdue. The inmate calling service industry is a monopoly with less than three dominant players. Basically, each correctional facility contracts with one of the big players to be an exclusive service provider. While there is a bidding process, the companies typically agree to pay a percentage of their profits back to the department in exchange for the contract. (an average of 48 percent according to Prison Legal News). Simply, the company that can offer the largest "kickbacks" wins the contract. This is purely "reverse competition". Operating without regulation or proper oversight this shadowy industry has taken advantage of millions of families and their loved ones.

I must mention two citizens critical in my education on this process. First is Charlie Sullivan of CURE a tireless prison reform advocate who approached me over 10 years ago about this injustice. The second is Ms. Martha Wright, a grandmother, who in 2003 filed a class action lawsuit against these unscrupulous businesses alleging they charged "exorbitant and unconscionable long-distance rates."

In 2005, I first introduced The Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, calling for more competition, rate caps and an end to these insane and insidious "kickbacks" also known as "site commissions"—which is just a polite name for "Bribery".

For too many years we have allowed predatory companies like Securus to gauge these faceless and voiceless families who are already emotionally and financially devastated. It is unreasonable, unjust and unacceptable to pay \$17 for a 15 minute call or \$300 dollars a month to talk to a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, more than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call

rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

After a decade of no oversight, no regulation and no transparency the FCC has a chance tomorrow to finally right a wrong to a powerless segment of our society.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Hon. TOM WHEELER,

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WHEELER: More than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

For the past decade we, the undersigned Members of Congress, have been imploring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide a market-based solution to curb these high telephone rates (see the Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, first introduced in the 109th Congress). The Commission is poised on October 22, 2015, to approve a final order on comprehensive inmate calling services (ICS) and we firmly believe that such comprehensive reform is needed to rein in the predatory practices in the ICS marketplace. The lack of competition and the out of control site commissions paid to correctional facilities are partly the cause of these skyrocketing costs. Simply put, up to 60 percent of what prisoners' families pay to receive phone calls from their incarcerated loved ones has nothing to do with the cost of the phone services provided. These artificial rates account for hundreds of millions of dollars paid to state prison systems for exclusive contracts.

For several years, the Commission has correctly concluded that unconstrained site commission practices are the most significant contributing factor to high ICS rates. In its 2013 order, Reducing High Inmate Calling Rates, the Commission cited many examples demonstrating the correlation of site commission and high phone rates.

On September 15, 2015, the Commission outlined in a fact sheet that it "strongly discourages site commissions" but did not provide any assurance that it plans to eliminate or curb this predatory practice. It also outlined a rate cap of \$1.65 for intrastate, interstate, and international calls. Although establishing a rate cap is a step in the right direction, we believe it must be coupled with eliminating site commissions in order to yield the lowest possible phone rates. We, therefore, urge the Commission to use its statutory authority under Sections 201 and 276 to address site commissions when it undertakes comprehensive ICS reform.

We have all heard the stories and cries of our constituents who, at times, have had to pay up to \$17 for a 15 minute call just to stay in touch with their incarcerated loved ones. We know all too well that ongoing contact between the incarcerated and their families reduces the rate of recidivism in our society. Ending these predatory practices of price gouging at the expense of families is a human rights issue. As the Commission moves towards a vote on ICS, we urge you to exercise the fullest extent of your jurisdiction to protect and service more vulnerable consumers.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. RUSH,

Member of Congress.

G. K. BUTTERFIELD,

Member of Congress.

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,